

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (new) A method for error handling in a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

detecting with a plurality of monitoring units a plurality of respective temporally successive error states of the printer or copier created by a single causative error;

transmitting the detected plurality of temporally successive error states to a controller;

storing said transmitted plurality of temporally successive error states in a storage;

evaluating the stored plurality of temporally successive error states by the controller;

comparing the stored plurality of temporally successive error states with predetermined error state patterns and determining at least one error type identifying said causative error; and

implementing a corrective action by the controller dependent on the error type.

28. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein said corrective action comprises providing at least one corrective measure to the printer or copier.

29. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein said corrective action comprises providing an error message.

30. (new) A method of claim 28 wherein a plurality of corrective measures are provided by the controller dependent on the error type.

31. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein said corrective action comprises providing both at least one corrective measure and at least one error message by the controller dependent on the error type.

32. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein the controller is connected with a host system, whereby the controller only registers with the host system causative errors that cannot be corrected automatically.

33. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein information about the respective error type of temporally successive error states that can be automatically remedied are stored at least in one error storage of the controller.

34. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein temporally successive error states transmitted up to a shut down of the printer or copier are evaluated with aid of a predetermined error evaluation algorithm.

35. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein dependent on the error type, the printer or copier is at least one of automatically restarted, an automatic start is prevented, and a signaling of the error to a subordinate controller occurs.

36. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein the printing or copying event is ended after the transmission of the temporally successive error states, and all of the error states transmitted up to the ending of the printer or copier copying event are stored in the storage and used for the evaluation.

37. (new) A method of claim 27 wherein the stored temporally successive error states are erased in the storage after the evaluation of the temporally successive error states.

38. (new) A device for error handling in a printer or copier, comprising:

a controller that transmits a plurality of temporally successive error states created by a single causative error occurring in the printer or copier from respective monitoring units in the printer or copier;

a storage in which said plurality of transmitted temporally successive error states are stored;

the controller comparing the stored temporally successive error states with predetermined error state patterns and determining at least one error type identifying said causative error; and

the controller implementing a corrective action dependent on the error type.